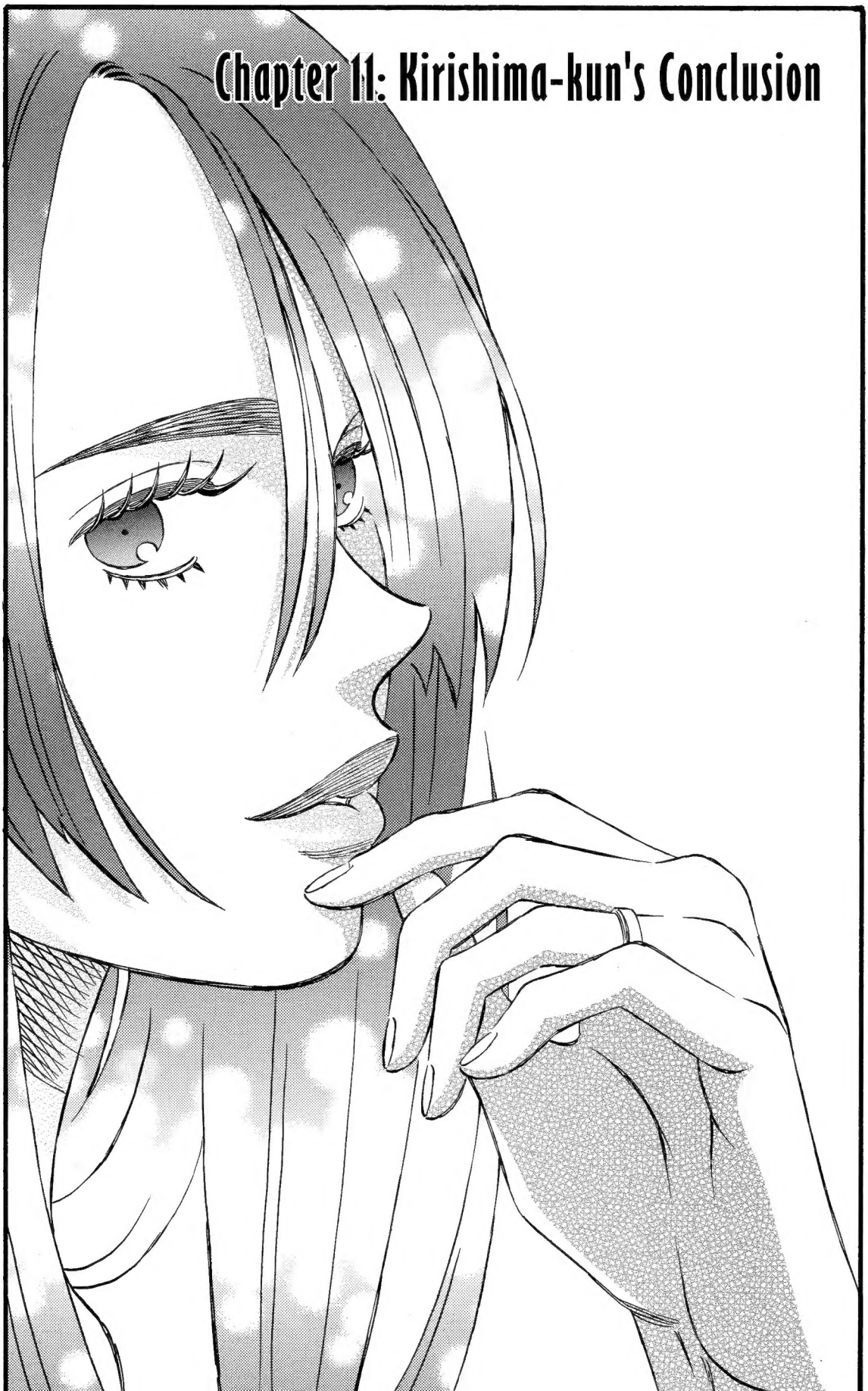
Chapter 11: Kirishima-kun's Conclusion



YOU'RE SUING THE HOSPI-TAL...?

I'M GOING TO SUE THE HOSPITAL WHERE MY MOTHER WAS PREVIOUSLY ADMITTED.

I NEED YOU TO COME WITH ME!

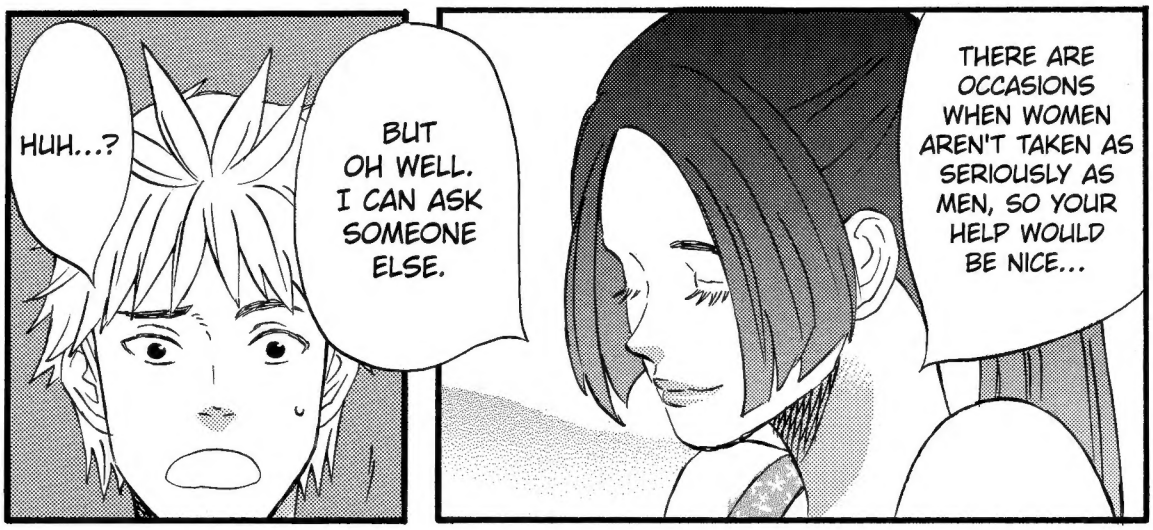
YES. THAT'S RIGHT.

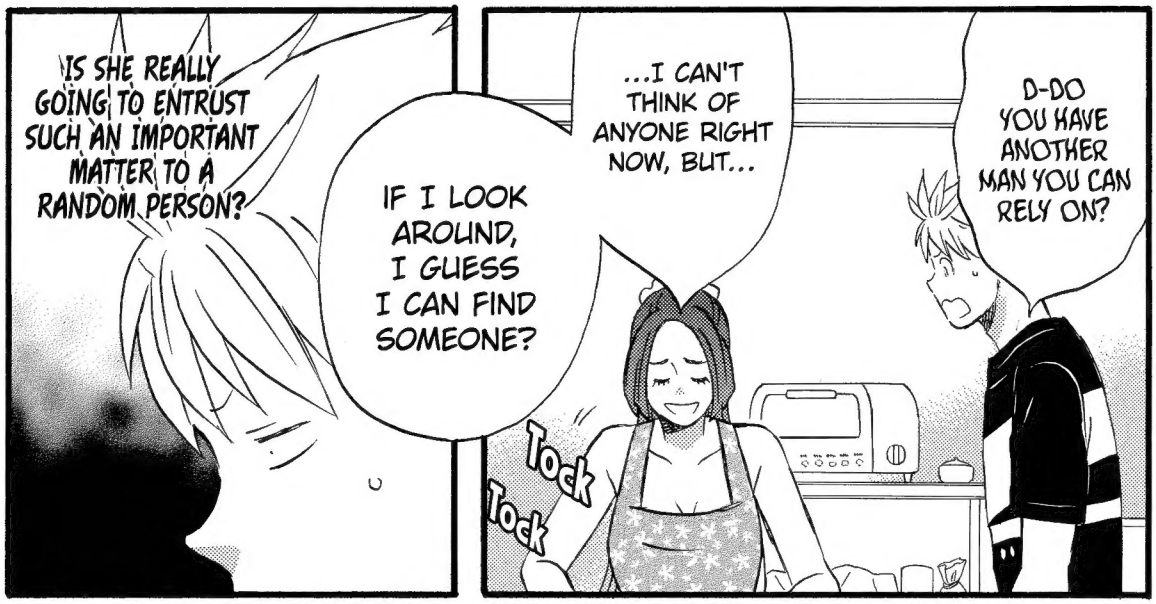
YOU MEAN SUE AS IN, COMPENSA-TION FOR DAMAGES?

IS IT?

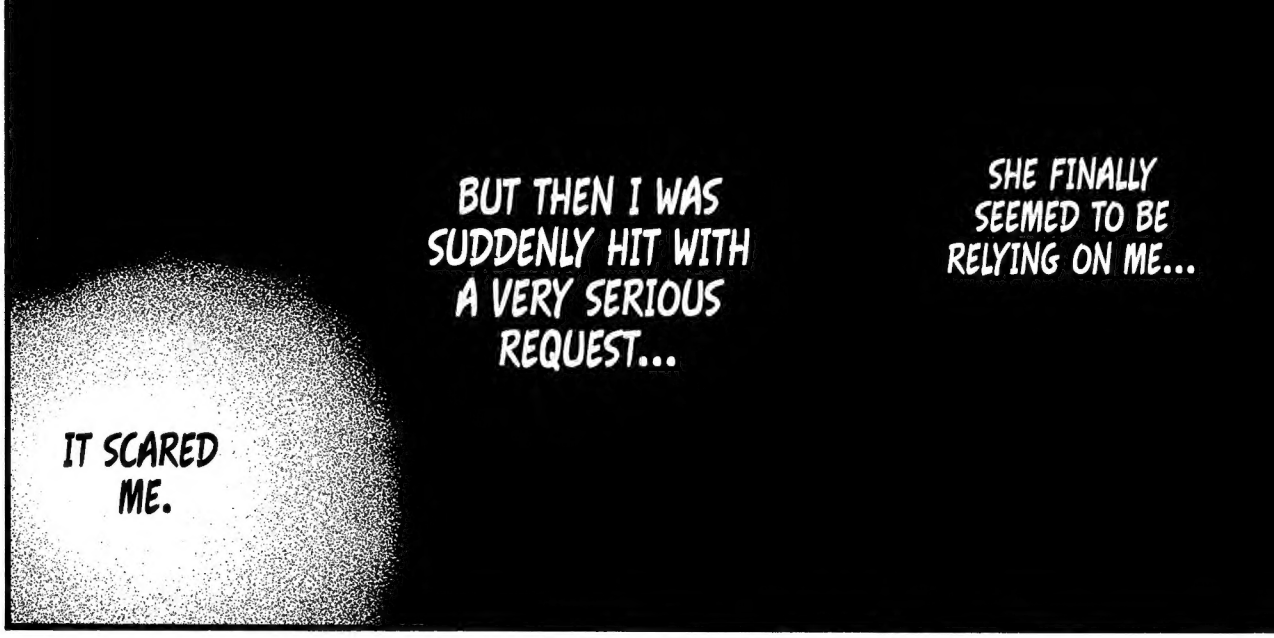
HMM...

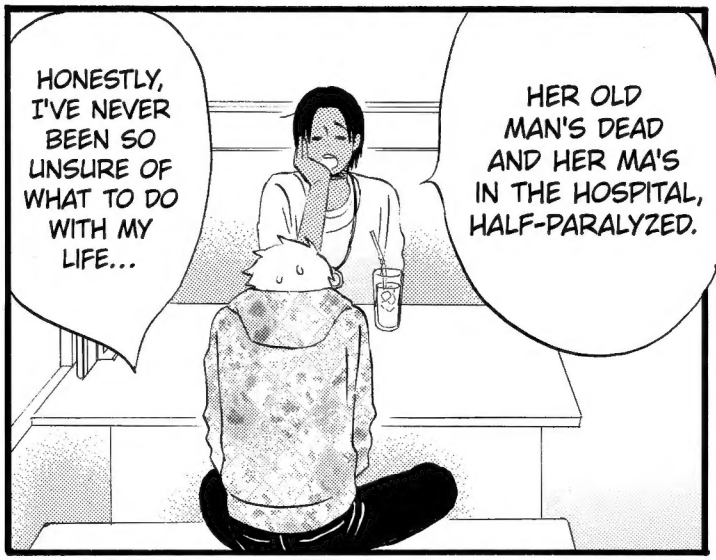
FOR MY FIRST OFFICIAL TASK AS YOUR HUSBAND, THAT FEELS QUITE HEAVY...


HUH...?
BUT OH WELL. I CAN ASK SOMEONE ELSE.
THERE ARE OCCASIONS WHEN WOMEN AREN'T TAKEN AS SERIOUSLY AS MEN, SO YOUR HELP WOULD BE NICE...

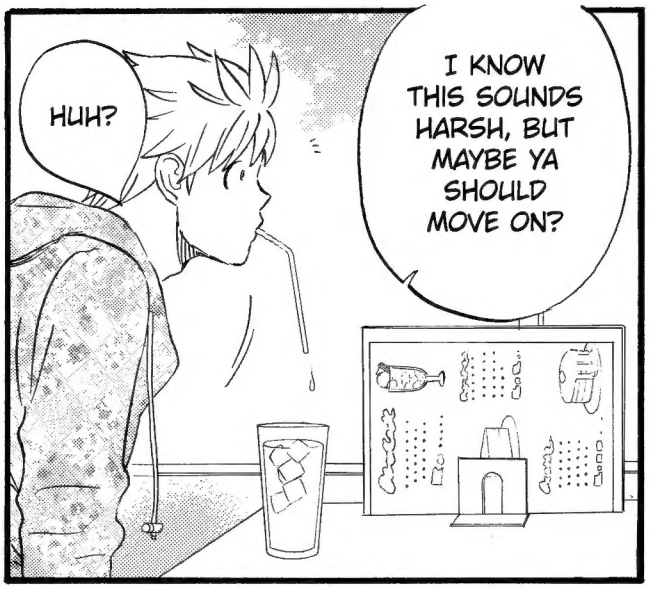

IS SHE REALLY GOING TO ENTRUST SUCH AN IMPORTANT MATTER TO A RANDOM PERSON?
IF I LOOK AROUND, I GUESS I CAN FIND SOMEONE?
...I CAN'T THINK OF ANYONE RIGHT NOW, BUT...
D-DO YOU HAVE ANOTHER MAN YOU CAN RELY ON?
Tock
Tock

IT'S LIKE...
THAT'S WHY I SAID NOT TO WORRY ABOUT IT, KIRISHIMA-KUN. JUST CARRY ON LIKE USUAL.
I'M SORRY, OKAY? THAT WAS TOO MUCH TO ASK.

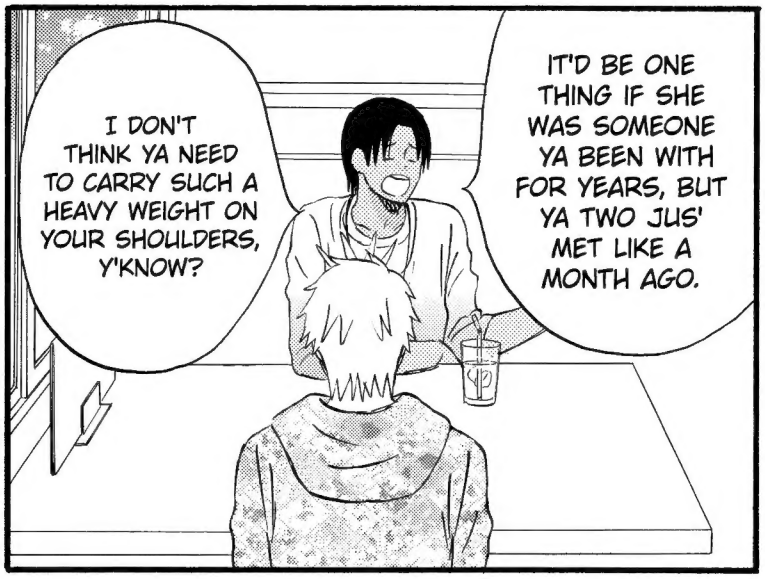

IT SCARED ME.
BUT THEN I WAS SUDDENLY HIT WITH A VERY SERIOUS REQUEST...
SHE FINALLY SEEMED TO BE RELYING ON ME...

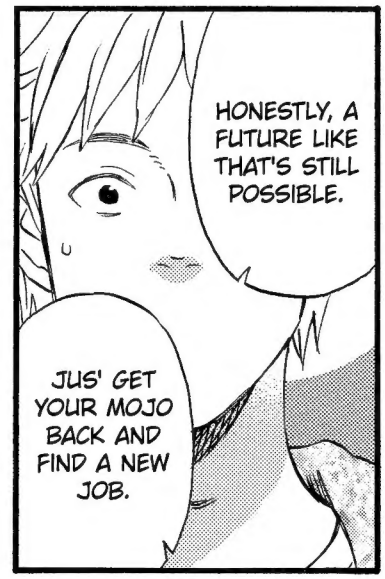

HONESTLY, I'VE NEVER BEEN SO UNSURE OF WHAT TO DO WITH MY LIFE...
HER OLD MAN'S DEAD AND HER MA'S IN THE HOSPITAL, HALF-PARALYZED.

WHOA... AI-CHAN SURE HAS IT TOUGH.


HUH?
I KNOW THIS SOUNDS HARSH, BUT MAYBE YA SHOULD MOVE ON?

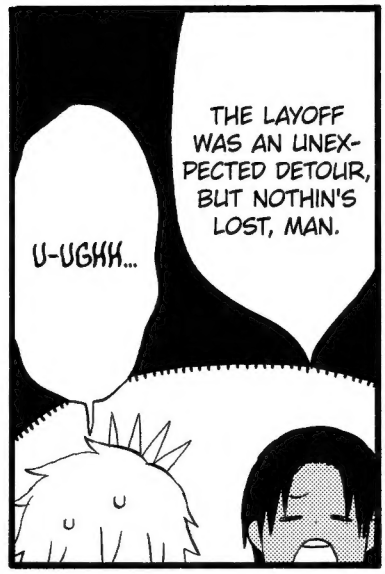
I DON'T THINK YA HAVE TO CARRY THOSE RESPONSIBILITIES.
IF YA HADN'T BEEN LAID OFF AND KEPT WORKIN' YOUR OFFICE JOB...
EVENTUALLY, YA MIGHT'VE HAD A NORMAL WIFE AND THEN A KID. YA KNOW, JUST A REGULAR, HAPPY LIFE.

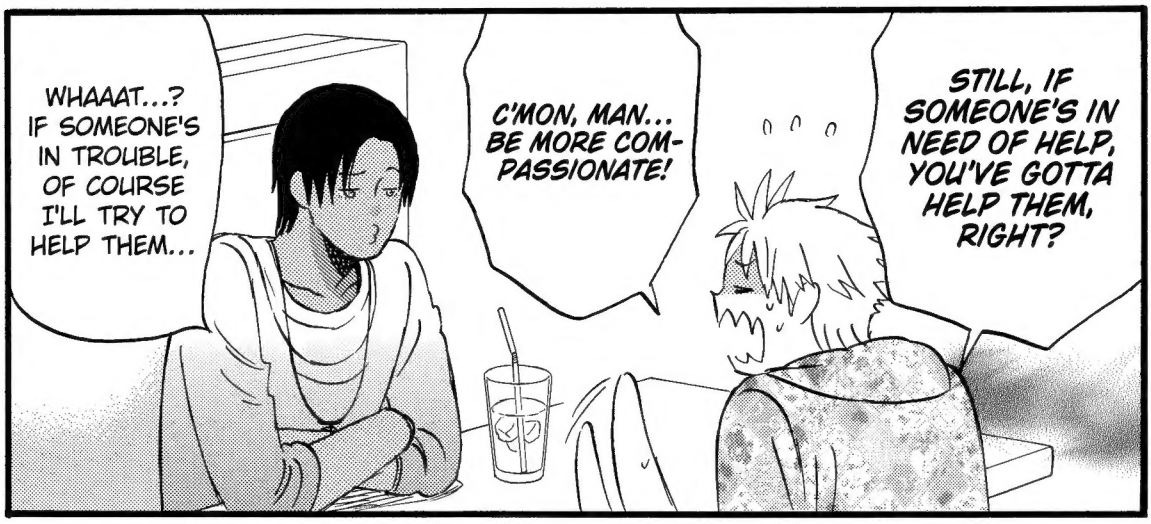

IT'D BE ONE THING IF SHE WAS SOMEONE YA BEEN WITH FOR YEARS, BUT YA TWO JUS' MET LIKE A MONTH AGO.
I DON'T THINK YA NEED TO CARRY SUCH A HEAVY WEIGHT ON YOUR SHOULDERS, Y'KNOW?


HONESTLY, A FUTURE LIKE THAT'S STILL POSSIBLE.
JUS' GET YOUR MOJO BACK AND FIND A NEW JOB.

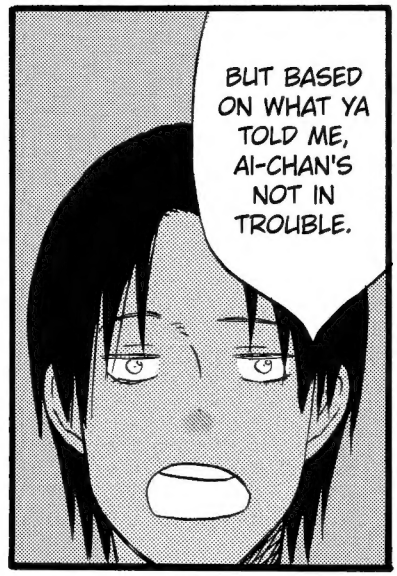
FORTUNATELY, YA HAVEN'T MET THE MOTHER YET, HAVE YA?
YA CAN STILL TURN BACK.
AND LET'S FACE IT, IT'S NOT LIKE AI-CHAN SEEMS TO HAVE ANY SPECIAL FEELINGS FOR YA.

UGHH... YOUR WORDS ARE COLD, BUT TRUE...!
YA SHOULD BE HAVIN' FUN AND FOOLIN' AROUND AT YOUR AGE, NOT TAKIN' CARE OF YOUR IN-LAWS.
BESIDES, YOU'RE ONLY 24 YEARS OLD.
Really, that's dumb...


U-UGHH...
THE LAYOFF WAS AN UNEXPECTED DETOUR, BUT NOTHIN'S LOST, MAN.


WHAAAT...? IF SOMEONE'S IN TROUBLE, OF COURSE I'LL TRY TO HELP THEM...
C'MON, MAN... BE MORE COMPASSIONATE!
STILL, IF SOMEONE'S IN NEED OF HELP, YOU'VE GOTTA HELP THEM, RIGHT?

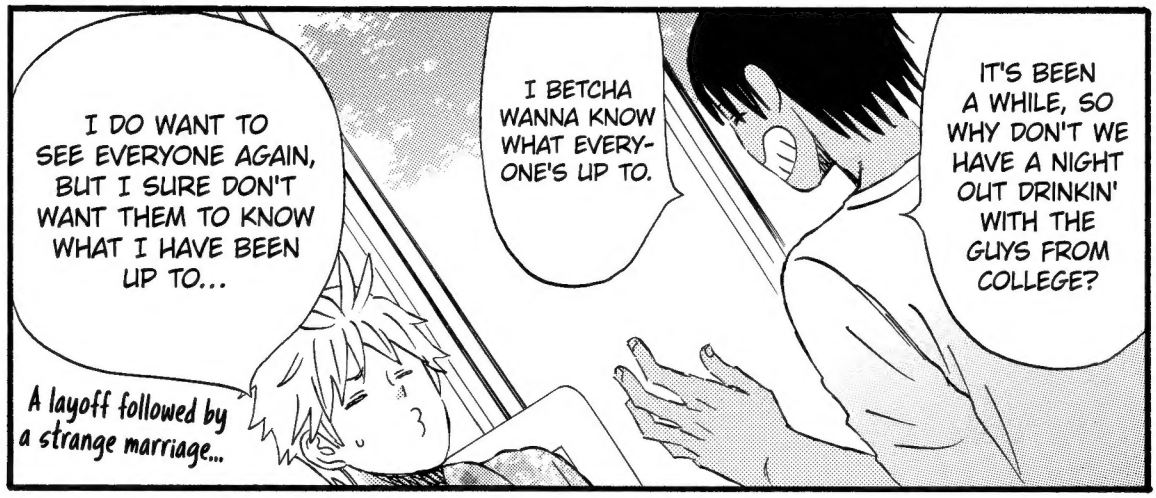
I CAN'T THINK OF ANYTHING.
NOTHING
AT ALL..
IF THERE'S ANYTHING I CAN DO TO HELP, PLEASE LET ME KNOW, OKAY...?


BUT BASED ON WHAT YA TOLD ME, AI-CHAN'S NOT IN TROUBLE.

Bang
ALL RIGHT!!
...THAT'S TRUE.

TRUST ME, IT'LL HELP YA THINK THINGS THROUGH AND MAKE A DECISION.
HMM...

LET'S HAVE A GUY'S NIGHT OUT!
HUH? THAT'S SUDDEN. WHY?
STAYIN' AT HOME ALL DAY DOIN' HOUSEWORK NARROWS YOUR THINKIN'.
EVEN HOUSE-HUSBANDS GOTTA UNWIND EVERY NOW AND THEN!

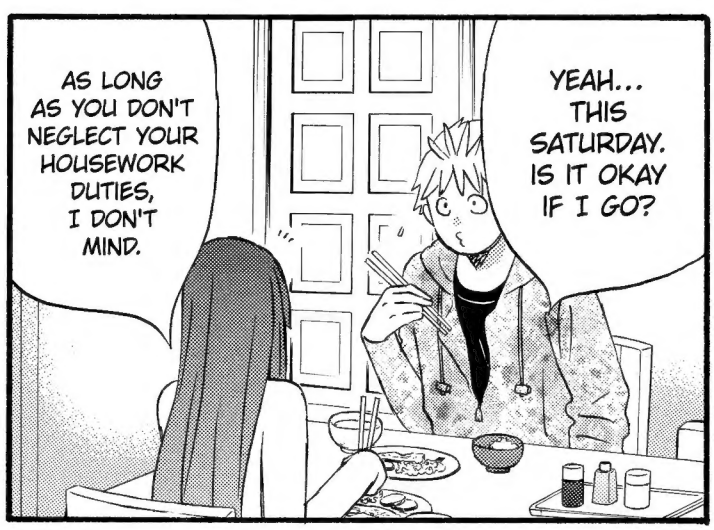

IT'S BEEN A WHILE, SO WHY DON'T WE HAVE A NIGHT OUT DRINKIN' WITH THE GUYS FROM COLLEGE?
I BETCHA WANNA KNOW WHAT EVERY-ONE'S UP TO.
I DO WANT TO SEE EVERYONE AGAIN, BUT I SURE DON'T WANT THEM TO KNOW WHAT I HAVE BEEN UP TO...
A layoff followed by a strange marriage...

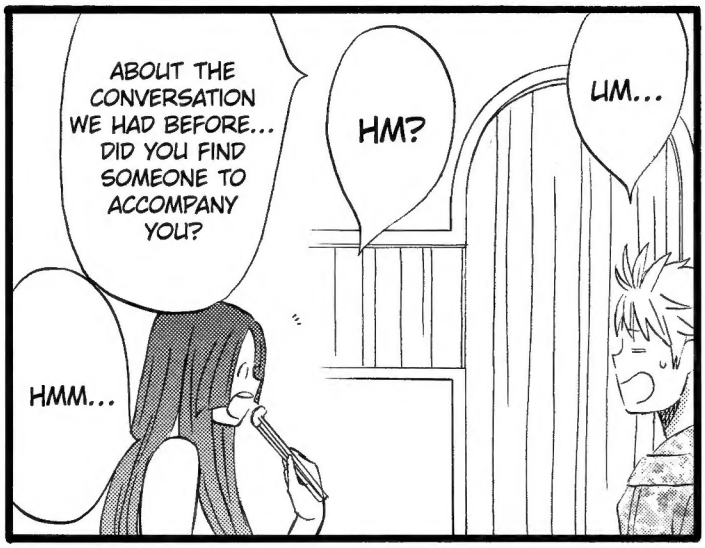
AND HERE I WAS WONDERING WHY I HAVEN'T BEEN GETTING ANY MESSAGES FROM THEM LATELY...
WOOOW. HOW NICE OF YOU, KIKUCHI...
I KNEW IT'D BE DIFFICULT FOR YA TO BRING IT UP, SO I TOLD THEM.
I'm being handled with kid gloves...

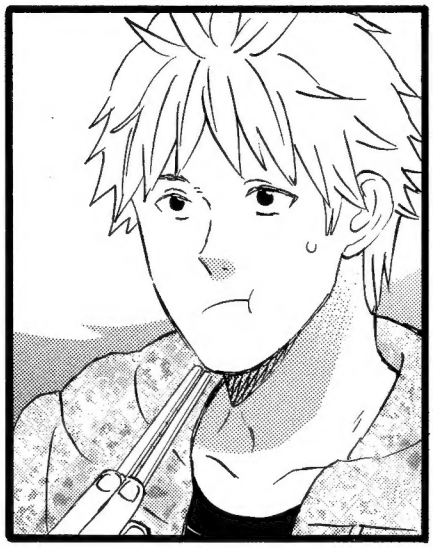
OH, NO WORRIES. THEY ALREADY KNOW 'BOUT YOUR LAYOFF.
HUH?! HOW?!!
WHAT THE HECK?!!

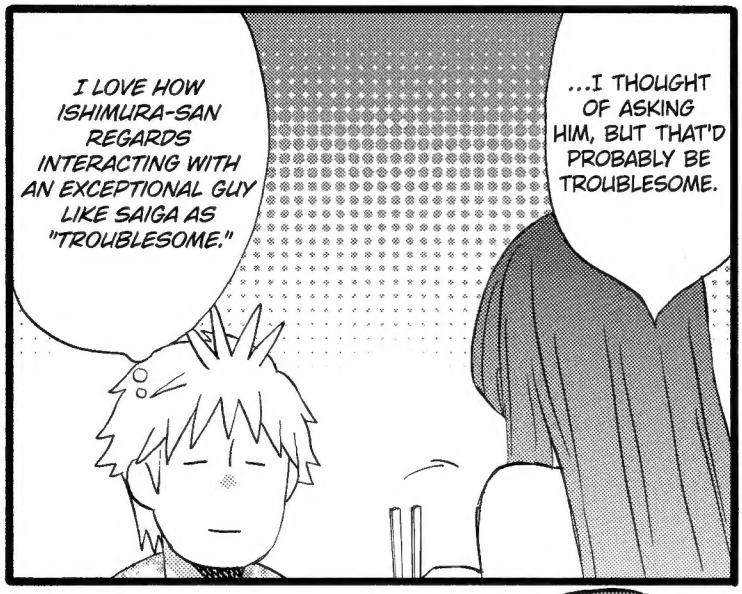
A NIGHT OUT DRINKING WITH THE GUYS?

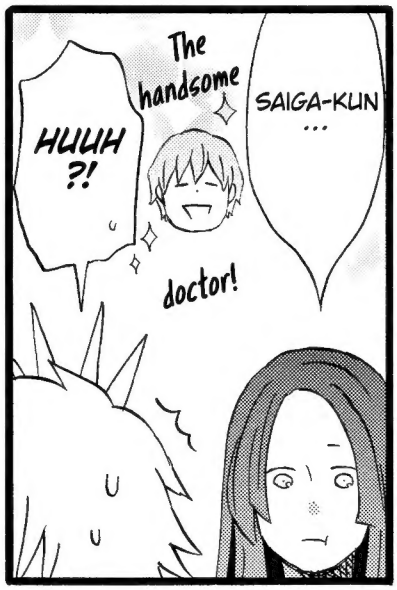
GO HAVE FUN WITH YOUR FRIENDS!
THANK YOU...


AS LONG AS YOU DON'T NEGLECT YOUR HOUSEWORK DUTIES, I DON'T MIND.
YEAH... THIS SATURDAY. IS IT OKAY IF I GO?


ABOUT THE CONVERSATION WE HAD BEFORE... DID YOU FIND SOMEONE TO ACCOMPANY YOU?
HM?
UM...
HMM...




I LOVE HOW ISHIMURA-SAN REGARDS INTERACTING WITH AN EXCEPTIONAL GUY LIKE SAIGA AS "TROUBLESOME."
...I THOUGHT OF ASKING HIM, BUT THAT'D PROBABLY BE TROUBLESOME.


HUUH ?!
The handsome
doctor!
SAIGA-KUN ...

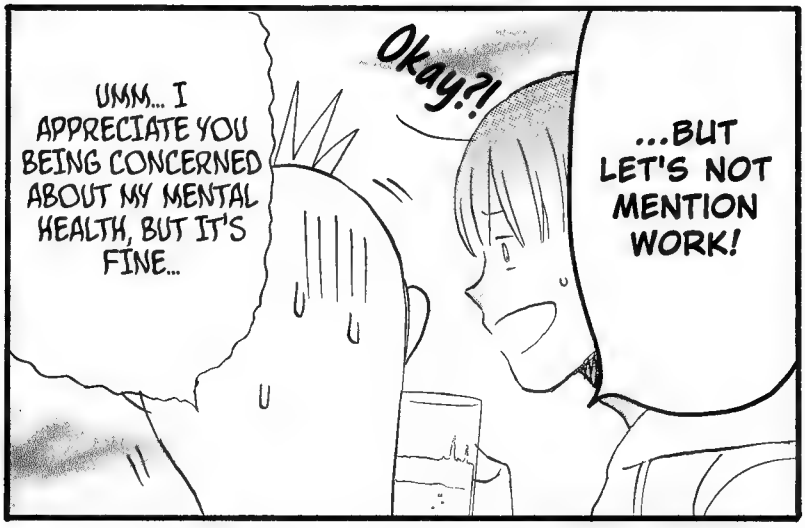
I HAVE DISTANT RELATIVES, BUT HONESTLY I HAVE NO IDEA WHO THEY ARE OR HOW TO CONTACT THEM...
MUNCH
MUNCH
SO I'LL JUST GO ALONE.

HA HA HA!
HAVING A MAN'S HELP WOULD BE NICE. BUT HEY, NOTHING I CAN DO!
NO. I NEED TO STOP THINKING ABOUT ISHIMURA-SAN FOR NOW!
THIS SATURDAY, I'LL SEE THE GUYS FOR THE FIRST TIME IN A WHILE AND HAVE A GOOD TIME!
SHE CHOSE TO GO ALONE...
...OR SO IT FEELS LIKE.

SO, C'MON. TELL ME WHAT YOU'VE BEEN UP TO!
UHHH...

IT'S BEEN A LONG TIME SINCE WE'VE ALL GOTTEN TOGETHER.

STILL, I'M A BIT JEALOUS OF YOU.
HOW COME, OGATA?

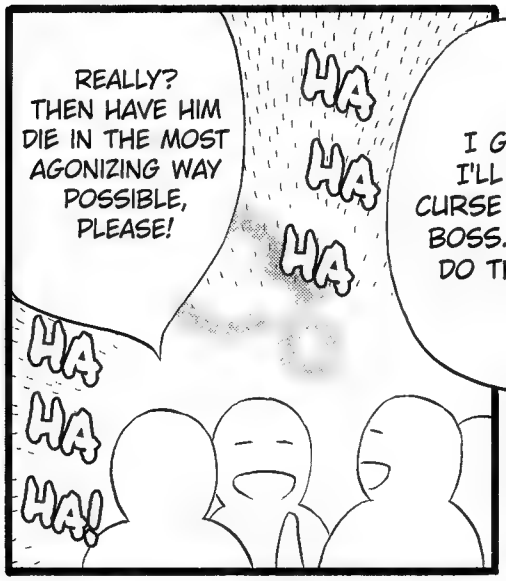

UMM... I APPRECIATE YOU BEING CONCERNED ABOUT MY MENTAL HEALTH, BUT IT'S FINE...
Okay?!
...BUT LET'S NOT MENTION WORK!

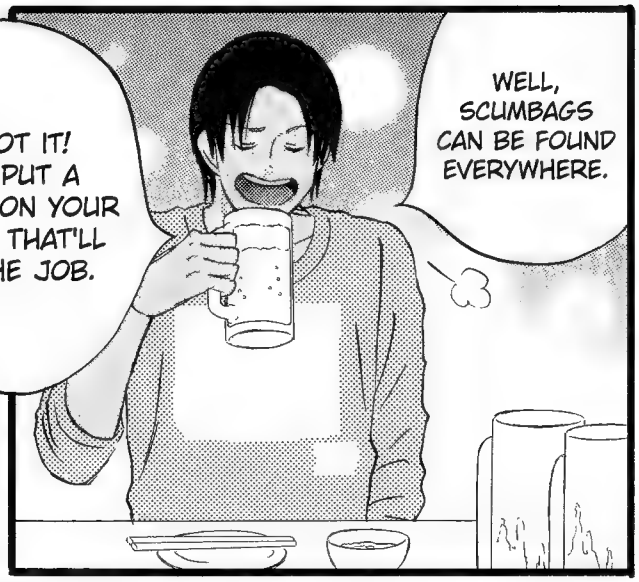
I'M SO TIRED I DON'T HAVE THE ENERGY TO DO IT...
BUT THEN AGAIN... QUITTING TAKES A LOT OF GUTS, DOESN'T IT?
OHH... I FEEL YOU.

AND ON MY DAYS OFF, I'M SO EXHAUSTED I CAN'T GET OUT OF BED. SERIOUSLY, I WANNA QUIT!
I'M BEING COMPLETELY EXPLOITED AT MY JOB. WE WORK OVERTIME EVERY DAY...
SIIIIGH...

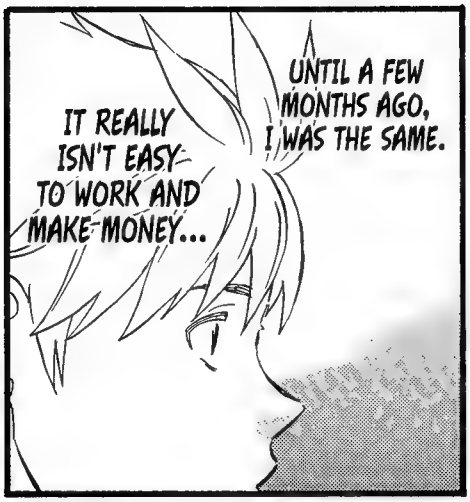
I WANNA KILL HIM.
YA GOTTA CHILL, DUDE...
WHOA...

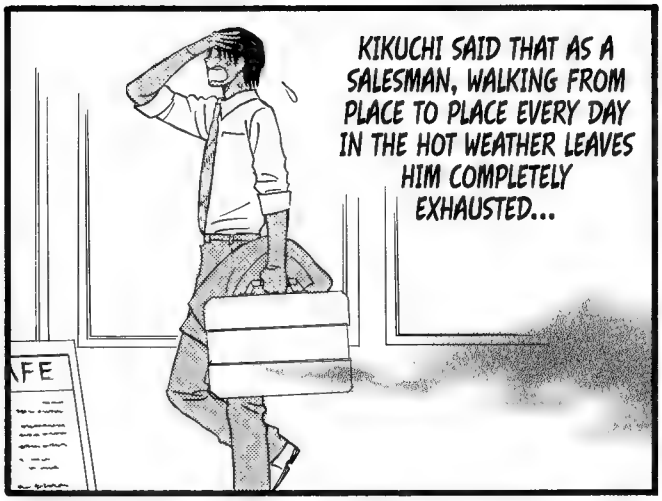
WHERE I WORK, PEOPLE AREN'T VERY FRIENDLY... AND MY BOSS IS AN ASSHOLE...
HE GETS UNREASONABLY ANGRY ALL THE TIME.

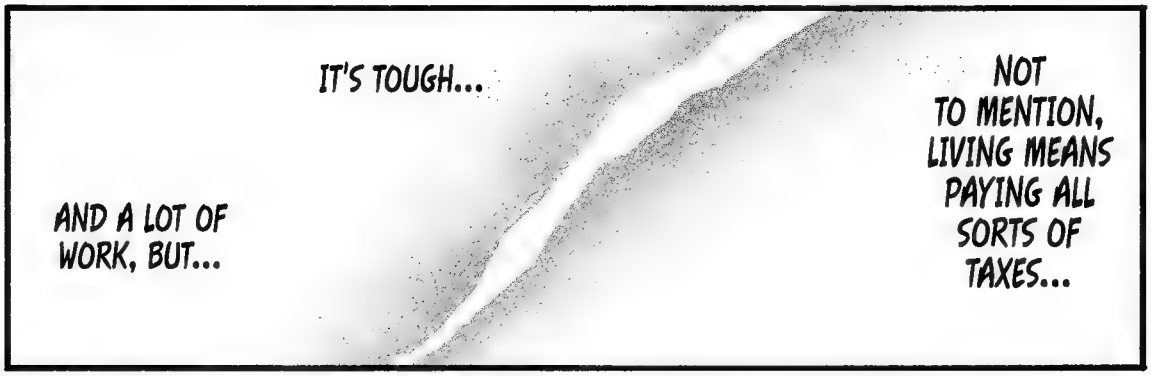

REALLY? THEN HAVE HIM DIE IN THE MOST AGONIZING WAY POSSIBLE, PLEASE!
HA HA HA
HA HA HA!


I GOT IT! I'LL PUT A CURSE ON YOUR BOSS. THAT'LL DO THE JOB.
WELL, SCUMBAGS CAN BE FOUND EVERYWHERE.

IT ISN'T JUST ME. IT LOOKS LIKE EVERYONE HAS IT TOUGH...
...
WHAT ABOUT YOU, TAKAMINE? WHAT'VE YOU BEEN UP TO?
OHH... WELL, MY COMPANY IS...


IT REALLY ISN'T EASY TO WORK AND MAKE MONEY...
UNTIL A FEW MONTHS AGO, I WAS THE SAME.


KIKUCHI SAID THAT AS A SALESMAN, WALKING FROM PLACE TO PLACE EVERY DAY IN THE HOT WEATHER LEAVES HIM COMPLETELY EXHAUSTED...


IT'S TOUGH...
AND A LOT OF WORK, BUT...
NOT TO MENTION, LIVING MEANS PAYING ALL SORTS OF TAXES...

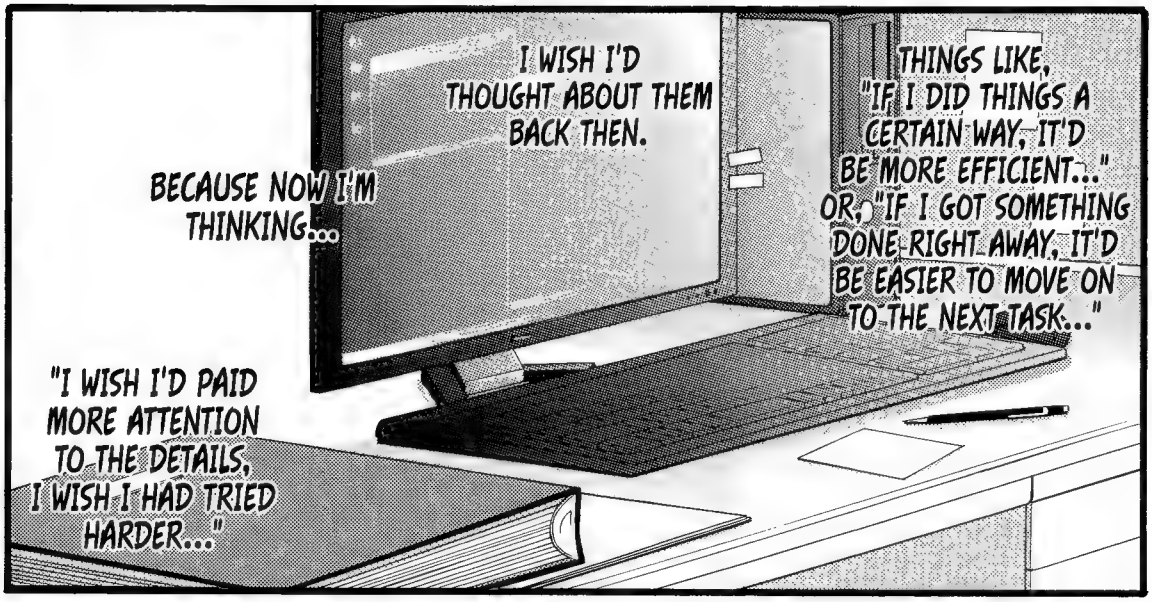
EVERYONE'S DOING THEIR BEST, WITHOUT RUNNING AWAY...

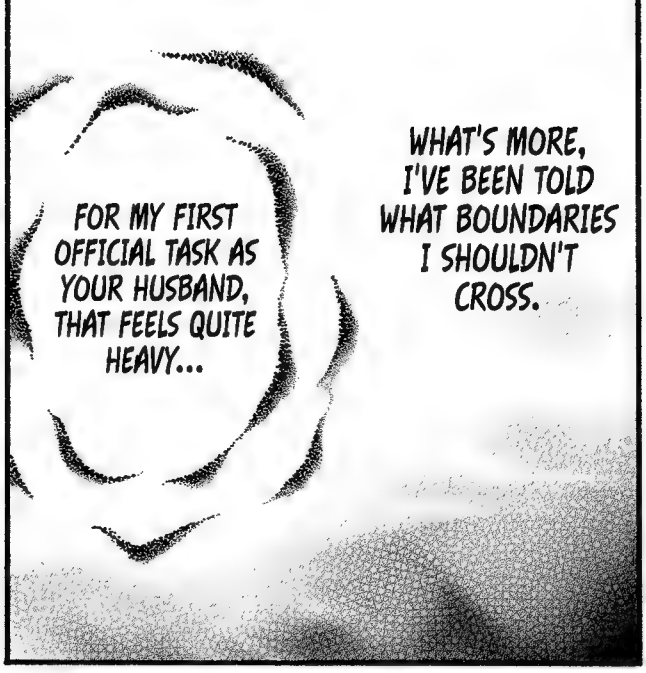
WORKING HARD SO YOU CAN MAKE MONEY IS ALREADY AN AMAZING THING.
I'm sorry for the wait! Here is your beer...
Thank you...!
IT DOESN'T MATTER IF IT'S FULL-TIME OR ONLY PART-TIME...

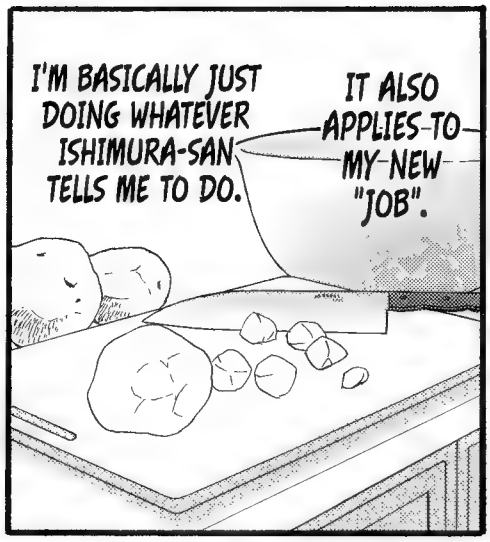
AND THEN THERE'S ME, WHO WAS LAID OFF, ISN'T LOOKING FOR A NEW JOB, AND WASTES HIS DAYS DOING NOTHING...

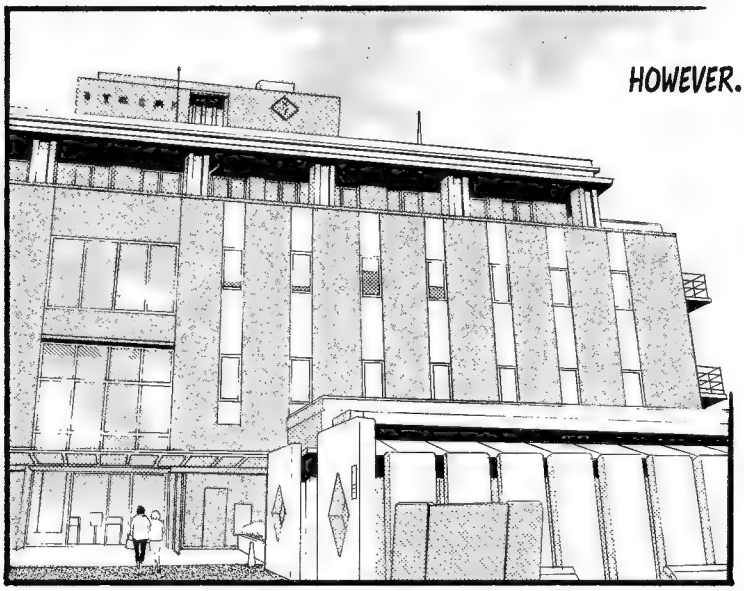
I FEEL LIKE I JUST DID WHATEVER I WAS TOLD TO DO.
DID I DO MY BEST AT MY PREVIOUS JOB?

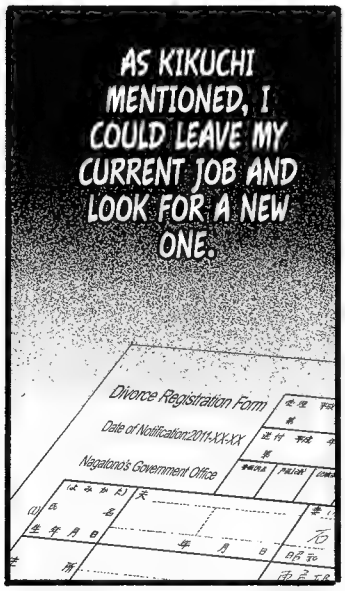
HEY, WHAT'S WRONG?!
YOU CAN DO IT TOO, Y'KNOW?! DO YOUR BEST AND YOU'LL MAKE IT!
I'M STARTING TO FEEL THAT ANYONE WHO WORKS IS AMAZING AND MUCH BETTER THAN ME.
HEH HEH...

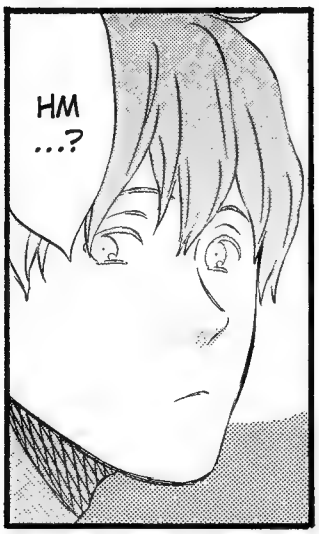

I WISH I'D THOUGHT ABOUT THEM BACK THEN.
THINGS LIKE, "IF I DID THINGS A CERTAIN WAY, IT'D BE MORE EFFICIENT..." OR, "IF I GOT SOMETHING DONE RIGHT AWAY, IT'D BE EASIER TO MOVE ON TO THE NEXT TASK..."
BECAUSE NOW I'M THINKING...
"I WISH I'D PAID MORE ATTENTION TO THE DETAILS, I WISH I HAD TRIED HARDER..."

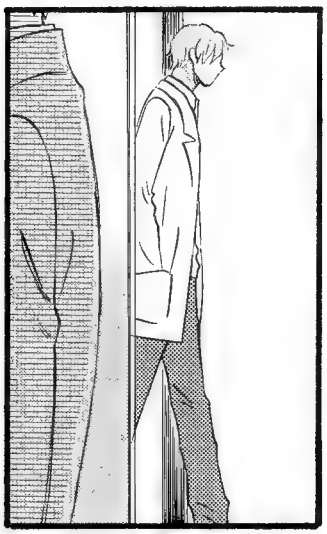

FOR MY FIRST OFFICIAL TASK AS YOUR HUSBAND, THAT FEELS QUITE HEAVY...
WHAT'S MORE, I'VE BEEN TOLD WHAT BOUNDARIES I SHOULDN'T CROSS.


I'M BASICALLY JUST DOING WHATEVER ISHIMURA-SAN TELLS ME TO DO.
IT ALSO APPLIES TO MY NEW "JOB".


HOWEVER...


AS KIKUCHI MENTIONED, I COULD LEAVE MY CURRENT JOB AND LOOK FOR A NEW ONE.
Divorce Registration Form
Date of Notification:2011-XX-XX
Nagatano's Government Office


HM ...?

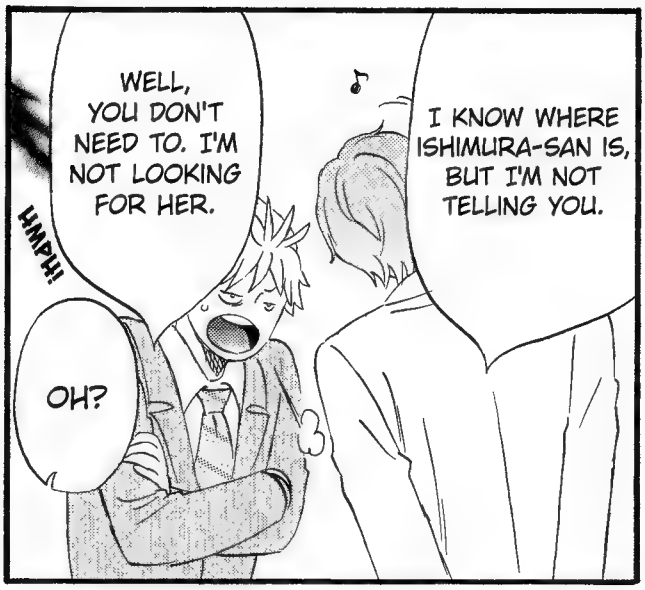


UHH... IT SHOULD BE ON THIS BUILDING'S THIRD FLOOR...

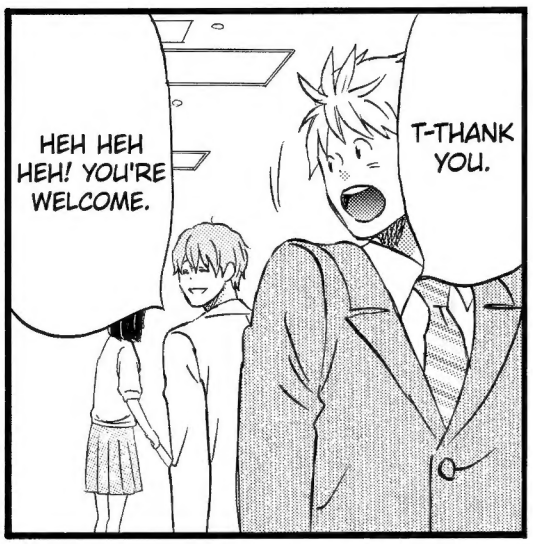
YOU SOUND ALL NATURAL AND SMOOTH EVEN WHEN INSULTING SOMEONE, HUH...?
Smile
SO, WHAT'S A NUISANCE LIKE YOU DOING HERE?

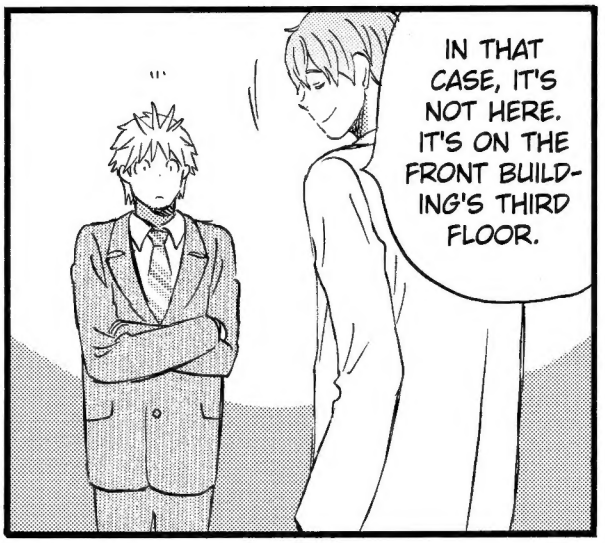
UGH... WE MEET AGAIN. WHAT BAD LUCK.
Hey!
IT'S UNUSUAL TO SEE YOU HERE.
HA HA HA! THAT'S HARSH.

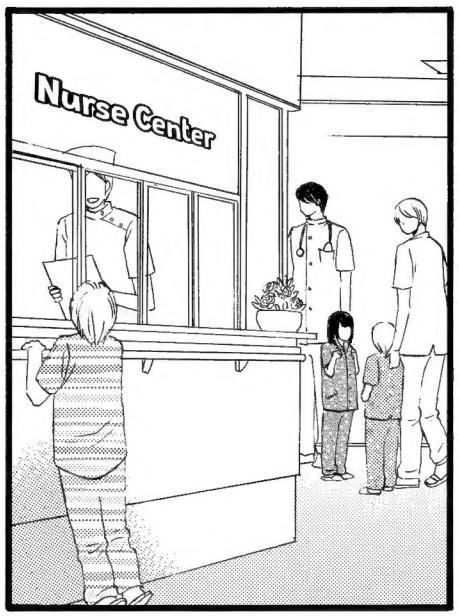
I CAME TO VISIT HER MOTHER TODAY.

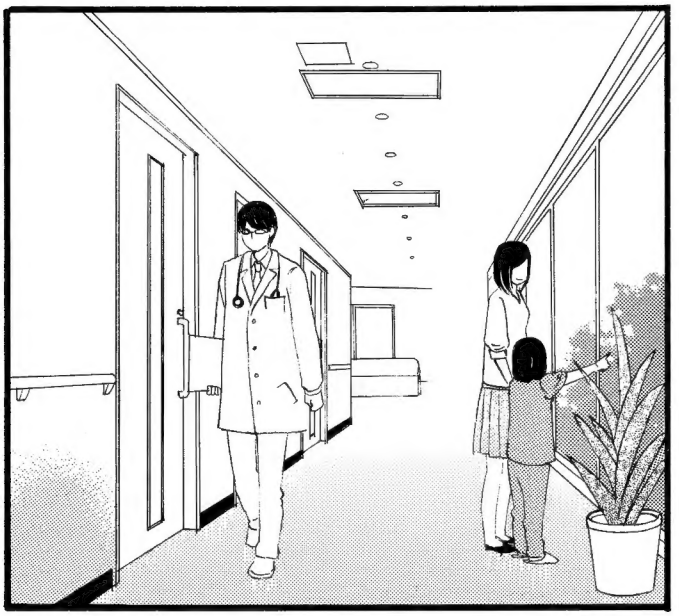

WELL, YOU DON'T NEED TO. I'M NOT LOOKING FOR HER.
I KNOW WHERE ISHIMURA-SAN IS, BUT I'M NOT TELLING YOU.
HMPH!
OH?

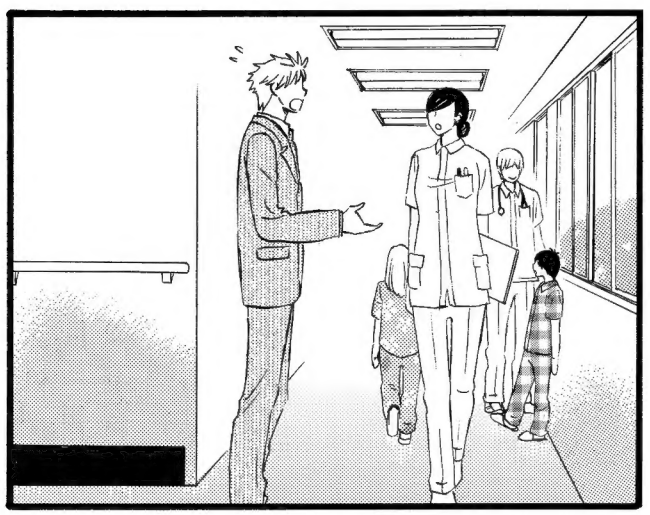
...
IS THAT SO?


T-THANK YOU.
HEH HEH HEH! YOU'RE WELCOME.

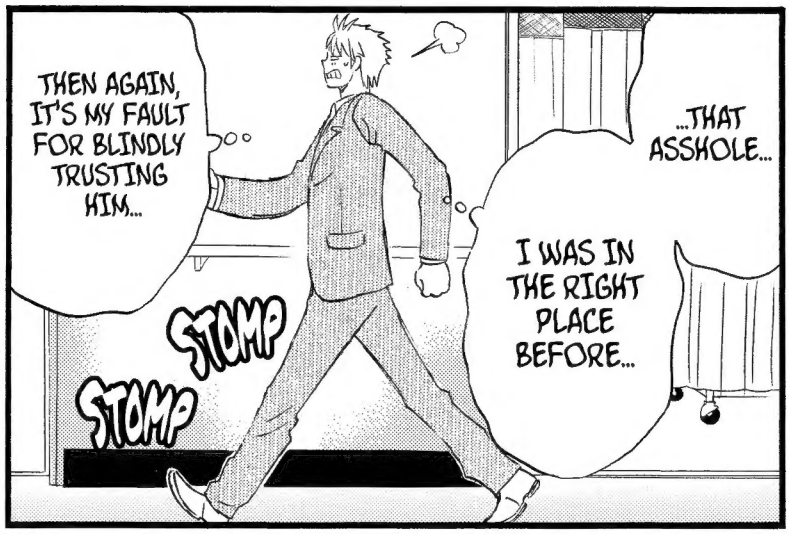

IN THAT CASE, IT'S NOT HERE. IT'S ON THE FRONT BUILDING'S THIRD FLOOR.

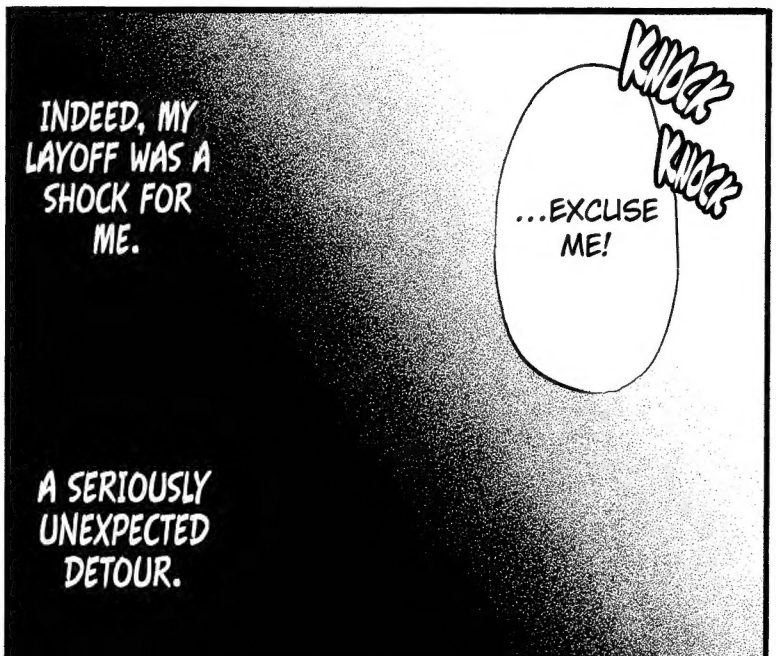

Nurse Center

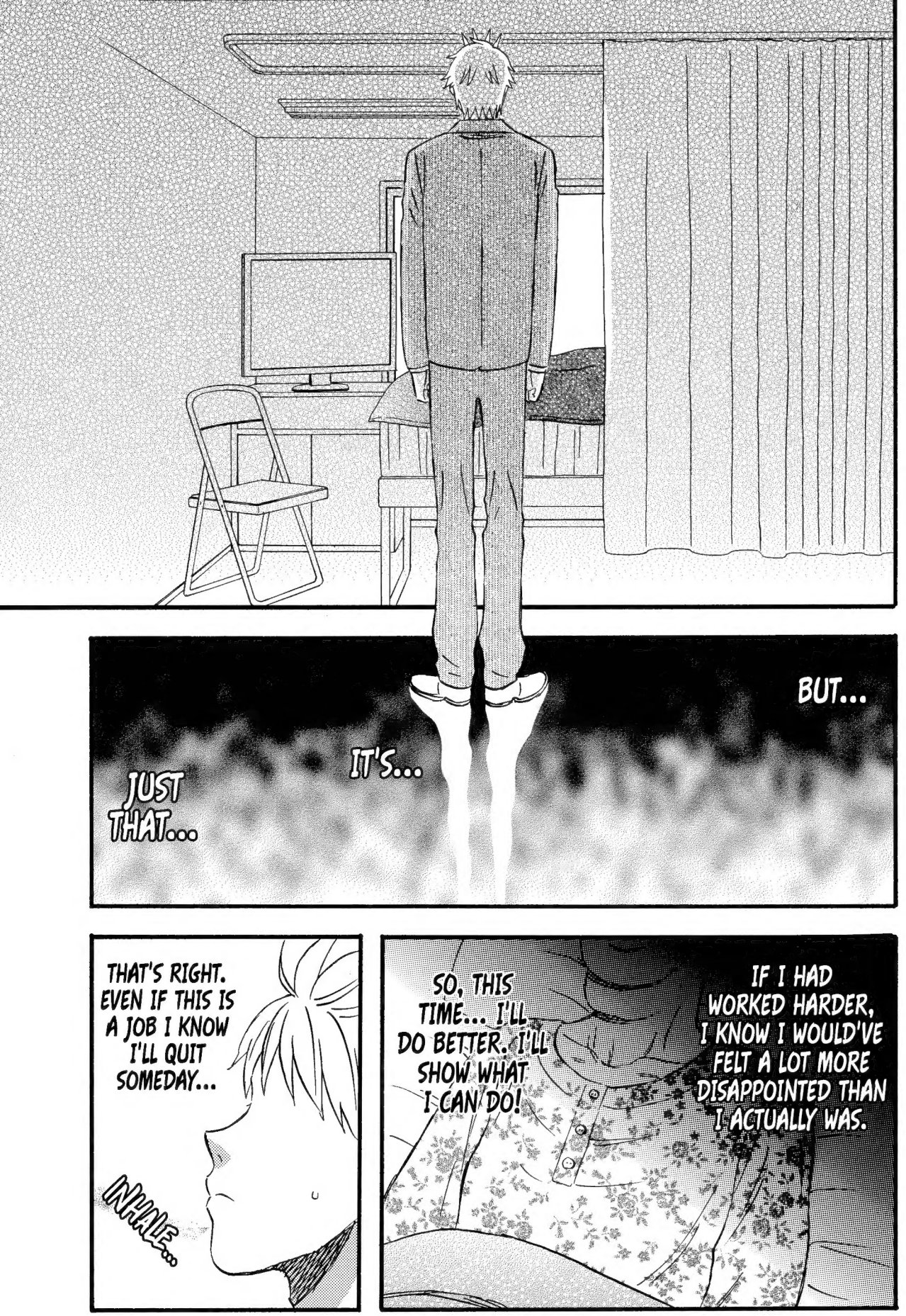




OH.
305
Ishimura Chi


THEN AGAIN, IT'S MY FAULT FOR BLINDLY TRUSTING HIM...
...THAT ASSHOLE...
I WAS IN THE RIGHT PLACE BEFORE...
STOMP
STOMP


INDEED, MY LAYOFF WAS A SHOCK FOR ME.
...EXCUSE ME!
KNOCK
KNOCK
A SERIOUSLY UNEXPECTED DETOUR.


BUT...
IT'S...
JUST THAT...
THAT'S RIGHT. EVEN IF THIS IS A JOB I KNOW I'LL QUIT SOMEDAY...
INHALE...
SO, THIS TIME... I'LL DO BETTER. I'LL SHOW WHAT I CAN DO!
IF I HAD WORKED HARDER, I KNOW I WOULD'VE FELT A LOT MORE DISAPPOINTED THAN I ACTUALLY WAS.

IT IS NICE TO MEET YOU. I AM KIRISHIMA SHIROU!
I AM TERRIBLY SORRY FOR TAKING UNTIL TODAY TO MEET YOU...
BUT I MARRIED AI-SAN ABOUT ONE MONTH AGO!
...THAT'S THE CONCLUSION I'VE REACHED.
IF I'M GOING TO QUIT ANYWAY, I MIGHT AS WELL GIVE IT MY BEST SHOT.